SELECTIONS
FROM THE
VERNACULAR NEWSPAPERS
PUBLISHED IN THE
PUNJAB, NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES, OUDH, AND CENTRAL PROVINCES,
Received up to 31st January, 1871.

POLITICAL (DOMESTIC).

THE *Urdú Akhbár*, of the 24th January, in noticing the orders of Government for the prevention of dacoity, enquires why the receivers of stolen property, or those who privately aid and abet thieves in their dishonesty, are not subjected to the same penalties as the thieves themselves: for to have a place for the reception of stolen property is calculated to afford greater facility to crime,—as when a thief has the means of concealing his dishonest gains, he becomes naturally more fearless than ever. The writer hopes that Government will adopt some severe measures in order that this kind of crime may be completely prevented.

Alluding to the fact of a bunneeah, named Beni Pershad, having been fined Rs. 100 for selling inferior or damaged grain, and another, a wealthy man in Bombay, Rs. 1,000 for the same want of honesty, the writer is of opinion that if these severe examples are continued in various places where the same complaint exists, the poor will be protected from such gross imposition.

The *Dabdaba-i-Sikandari*, of the 23rd January, in alluding to the statement that the Government of the North-Western Provinces has resolved to reduce the land-tax, and the *Englishman's* remarks thereon objecting to the measure, says that the editor of the *Englishman* being a European cannot know much about the subject, which ought to be referred to Natives for

their opinion,—as the writer is persuaded that to reduce or abolish the income-tax, and increase the land-tax, is a measure calculated to benefit the wealthy class, while the poor must still suffer. He proceeds to say, that Government ought always to impose taxes in such a manner as to avoid interference with the interests of free labour.

The *Urdú Benares Gazette*, of the 30th January, complains of the general way in which people are seized for gambling. The writer seems to think that it is improper to molest respectable persons who gamble merely for their own pleasure and amusement; and that only those who make it a practice or profession, and break the law, ought to be subjected to such measures. To effect the necessary discrimination, the writer urges upon Government the necessity of instructing District Officers on this point: because, he says, if every one who gambles is liable to punishment, it would be only just and proper to put a stop to racing, billiards, and other kinds of gambling, in which Europeans take so prominent a part, and in which even the authorities themselves do not scruple to share the pleasure. The writer concludes by saying that it would be but fair of the Government to return, to those who have only played for amusement, any money that may have been seized by the Police.

The writer is further of opinion that all fines imposed upon persons for neglecting to pay taxes should be refunded, unless it can be proved that such persons received due notice to pay up. And he instances a case at Benares, in which, after due enquiry by the Commissioner, it was found that notice had not been served on the rate-payer, in consequence of the office being short of hands, and the clerks not having sufficient leisure to write out the notices.

The writer directs the attention of the authorities to this subject as one worthy of investigation.

The *Jalwa-i-Túr*, of the 25th January, alluding to the publication of an article in the *Delhi Gazette*, headed "Marriage

Expenses," showing up the injurious custom among the Hindus of betrothing their female children in many instances to more than one man, and receiving money from all; thinks that this is a fit subject for the Government to notice, and hopes that some measures will be adopted in regard to it. The writer adds that now-a-days this baneful custom is most prevalent, and that it leads to much litigation; that the Courts give decrees, but that the judicial officers are not aware whether the sum claimed is of the nature of a loan, or an arrangement consequent on the marriage of a daughter; but that such arrangements are often against all rules.

The *Oudh Akhbár*, of the 24th January, referring to some paragraph in the *Mofussilite* of the 12th January concerning the Mahárája of Cashmere, in connection with Russia, and the "whisper of a little bird," that the Mahárája requires to be watched, considers that some enemy of the Mahárája is the author of the paragraph, and ridicules the idea of "such a thing as a little bird" being believed when no regard is paid to the reports of Government officials on the subject. The writer is, moreover, persuaded that one who is so well spoken of generally cannot be so easily condemned by what one man says of him. He goes on to point out that a similar atttempt to injure the Mahárája was made in 1865, but that the insinuations were answered by one Nawab Mahomed Murdan Ali Khan, and from that time to this no one said a word, with the exception of some English paper which hinted at some whisperings between Cashmere and Russia, but some English and Urdú papers also replied to this. The writer considers that this sort of thing is got up to please some enemy or enemies; but he is aware of the fact that the English Government pays no attention to such insinuations: because British Officers are made acquainted with all that goes on, even in the most trifling matters, and they always report the same. "Besides which the Mahárája's friendship for the British Government has been well-tested, and when the frontier disputes arose, no doubt the Panjáb quaked with fear."

POLITICAL (FOREIGN).

The *Urdú Delhi Gazette*, of the 21st January, alluding to the orders of Government concerning the coin current in the Shahpoora State, in the Márwár territory, which, it is said, bears the name of the ex-king of Delhi impressed on it, says that this has displeased Government, as in all other independent States the name of the ex-king of Delhi has been erased. It is added that the orders have been obeyed, but that there must exist other reasons for the necessity of such orders. That Shahpoora is a very small place, and has no right to its own particular coin: at least it is at present unknown how the right to this privilege was obtained.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The *Allygurh Institute Gazette*, of the 20th January, referring to the death of the Mahárájas of Kolapore and Kuppúrthula, offers some remarks upon the impression left on the minds of ignorant Natives by these sad events. The writer, while deploring the untimely deaths of these Chiefs, at a time and under circumstances so unfortunate, is of opinion that those of their countrymen who so strenuously opposed their departure to England have, as it were, gained a complete victory, and now hold up their heads, declaring that this result was only what might have been expected, and that the same fate awaits all others of their countrymen who may follow the example of those Chiefs in going on their travels to England. But, at the same time, he feels sure that sensible men will not allow such silly ideas to warp their better judgment, and interfere with any determination they may have formed of visiting London, the capital of civilization. He goes on to enquire on what foundation these opponents to the measure rest their opinions. Do they not believe in fate, and are they not aware that death is connected with, or dependant on, fate? And why, because a man is anxious to travel, and improve his mind by visiting a great nation,—should his death be ascribed to the fact of his having done so? After arguing at length in the above style,

the writer proceeds to say, that he has been made aware that the relatives of the Raja of Kolapore, so far from regretting the death of that Chief, are rather gladdened by it, as they feared to behold the result of his changed views, when he should return from his travels; and he accordingly pities such a display of feeling on the part of those who seem to think that sea-water can wash away the religion of either Hindu or Mahomedan; and to such persons he says, if their religious faith can be shaken by a visit to London, it must be woefully weak. Moreover, he is of opinion that when a man suspects that his religious views are in danger of undergoing a change by visiting a distant country, he ought to display greater firmness in adhering to them, and not allow his ardour to diminish in the least degree, but, on the contrary, to increase. In conclusion, the writer says,—"Let those who do not agree with me in this opinion reflect, with some sense of justice, upon the ideas of ignorant Hindustanees, who believe that faith may be affected by a man's mode of dress, by eating, drinking, and the air of another country; and that the true religion exists only on their side of the sea. No doubt such a creed may be shaken in this way, but why should London in particular be blamed for it? Are Cabul and Candahar not as likely to prove inimical to one's faith? It would be only right for the people of Hindustan to eradicate from their minds such absurd ideas, and be brought to sound reasoning, when all we have said will appear true to them."

The *Urdú Delhi Gazette*, of the 21st January, quotes a letter from Calcutta, in which the writer alludes to the release of the Wahabees from the Alipore Jail, and their immediate arrest upon certain charges involving rebellion against the Queen.

The *Panjábi Akhbár*, of the same date, in publishing an account of the Station Montgomery, regrets that it is not in so flourishing a condition as it deserves to be, if only out of respect to the founder, whose name it bears. The writer complains that the place is neglected and unpopulated; that, with the exception of fodder for cattle, nothing is cultivated;

and that the chief cause of this is the scarcity of water, which he thinks might be easily supplied if proper measures were adopted for the purpose. At the same time he considers the site ill-selected and unsuitable for agricultural purposes; and although a Church and Police barracks have been constructed, even they do not look well in such a wilderness. He goes on to express his belief that another settlement will have to be made, and the revenue paid by the agriculturists be considerably reduced: Moreover, that if the Financial Commissioner pays a visit to the station, he will see the necessity for improving it, by carrying out the suggestions of the Deputy Commissioner regarding the construction of a canal from the river Ravee—adding that the cost would be seven lakhs of rupees, which would be refunded in about two years' time. At present, when fodder only is produced, the Government receives Rs. 4 or 5 per 100 acres, but with the land well irrigated, the people would willingly pay Rs. 1-8 per acre.

The *Nasim-i-Jounpore*, of the 24th January, alludes to the proceedings of a Committee held in the Court of the Magistrate of Jounpore, in the course of which Syud Ali Nuseer, one of the members, laid before the Committee a request that a Native Doctor (Hakeem), on Rs. 25 a month, should be appointed: because the Natives generally do not approve of English medicines, and the mode of treatment adopted by European members of the Medical profession. Captain Fagan is said to have suggested that the request should remain in abeyance until the arrival of Sir William Muir, to whom it should be submitted.

The *Lawrence Gazette*, of the 27th January, reports that on the 18th of the same month, about half-past 2 o'clock, some twelve thieves attacked a place near the Lisaree gate at Meerut. The jemadar of the gate, with some constables, proceeded to the spot and arrested two notorious thieves; but during the disturbance consequent upon their capture, the

men who were on duty received serious blows from clubs, and one man was wounded in the face. The writer praises the jemadar for his activity, and adds that the complaints of thefts are numerous at or near Meerut, and that the villagers who live near the station are in league with the city people, and commit all sorts of depredations. "It is generally believed that if the jemadars were furnished with muskets, and the chowkeedars with spears, the citizens would feel more secure than they do now; and it would add to their security if a European Inspector were placed at the head of these guardians of the public safety."

The *Urdú Benares Gazette*, of the 30th January, furnishes some remarks upon the system of forced labour and supplies for officers on circuit. The writer says that it is generally complained of; but the sufferers are so meek that they bear all silently under promise of being paid, "and in fear and trembling lest something worse happen to them." Whereas, if they were to put a bold face on the matter, and represent their grievances to the proper authorities, they would soon obtain redress. He proceeds to say that high officials are not really aware of the way in which force is used, or something would at once be done to remedy the evil complained of. An order ought to be passed to the effect that no *rasd* (supplies) should be collected beforehand, but that due notice should be given to the bunneeahs, who would soon furnish them; and as far as it is possible to do so, the encampments ought to be near the bazaars, as thousands of maunds of supplies could be easily furnished from most cities. The writer considers that the complaints of want of supplies emanate from those evil disposed persons who help themselves when they have the matter in their own hands. He concludes by advising officers to abstain from sending to the servants of Rajas, or other Natives of note, for supplies.

The following Vernacular newspapers have been examined in this report, *viz.*:—

No.	Name of Newspaper.	Where Published.	Date.	Date of Receipt.
				1871.
1	*Tahzib-ul Akhláq*, ...	Allygurh, ...	Jany. 23rd, 1871.	Jany. 25th
2	*Urdú Márwár Gazette*, ...	Jodhpore, ...	„ 9th	„ 25th
3	*Ditto*, ...	Ditto, ...	„ 16th	„ 25th
4	*Allygurh Institute Gazette*,	Allygurh, ...	„ 20th	„ 25th
5	*Urdú Delhi Gazette*, ...	Agra, ...	„ 21st	„ 25th
6	*Panjábí Akhbár*, ...	Lahore, ...	„ 21st	„ 25th
7	*Vidyá Vilás*, ...	Jammu, ...	Decr. 10th, 1870.	„ 26th
8	*Ditto*, ...	Ditto, ...	„ 17th	„ 25th
9	*Ditto*, ...	Ditto, ...	„ 31st	„ 26th
10	*Kárnámah*, ...	Lucknow, ...	Jany. 23rd, 1871.	„ 26th
11	*Urdú Akhbár*, ...	Delhi, ...	„ 24th	„ 26th
12	*Najmul-ul Akhbár*, ...	Meerut, ...	„ 1st	„ 27th
13	*Ditto*, ...	Ditto, ...	„ 8th	„ 27th
14	*Oudh Akhbár*, ...	Lucknow, ...	„ 17th	„ 27th
15	*Akhbár-i-Alam*, ...	Meerut, ...	„ 19th	„ 27th
16	*Dabdaba-i-Sikundarí*, ...	Rampore, ...	„ 23rd	„ 27th
17	*Shola-i-Túr*, ...	Cawnpore, ...	„ 24th	„ 27th
18	*Nasim-i-Jaunpore*, ...	Jaunpore, ...	„ 24th	„ 27th
19	*Meerut Gazette*, ...	Meerut, ...	„ 7th	„ 28th
20	*Urdú Dhaulpore Gazette*,	Dhaulpore, ...	„ 11th	„ 28th
21	*Riyáz-i-Núr-i-Hind*, ...	Muradabad, ...	„ 14th	„ 28th
22	*Urdú Dhaulpore Gazette*,	Dhaulpore, ...	„ 18th	„ 28th
23	*Málwá Akhbár*, ...	Indour, ...	„ 18th	„ 29th
24	*Akmal-ul-Akhbár*, ...	Delhi, ...	„ 25th	„ 29th
25	*Lawrence Gazette*, ...	Meerut, ...	„ 27th	„ 29th
26	*Gwalior Gazette*, ...	Gwalior, ...	„ 15th	„ 30th
27	*Naiyir-i-Akhbár*, ...	Bijnour, ...	„ 19th	„ 30th
28	*Allygurh Institute Gazette*,	Allygurh, ...	„ 27th	„ 30th
29	*Khair Khwáh-i-Panjáb*, ...	Gujaranwalla, ...	„ 4th week.	„ 30th
30	*Urdú Benares Gazette*, ...	Benares, ...	„ 30th	„ 30th
31	*Jalwa-i Tur*, ...	Meerut, ...	„ 25th	„ 30th
32	*Urdú Muir Gazette*, ...	Ditto, ...	„ 25th	„ 30th
33	*Majma-ul-Bahrain*, ...	Ludhiana, ...	„ 26th	„ 31st
34	*Jalwa-i Túr*, ...	Meerut, ...	„ 17th	„ 31st
35	*Agra Akhbar*, ...	Agra, ...	„ 20th	„ 31st
36	*Rohilkhund Akhbár*, ...	Muradabad, ...	„ 21st	„ 31st
37	*Meerut Gazette*, ...	Meerut, ...	„ 21st	„ 31st
38	*Urdú Marwar Gazette*, ...	Jodhpore, ...	„ 23rd	„ 31st
39	*Oudh Akhbár*, ...	Lucknow, ...	„ 24th	„ 31st
40	*Urdú Delhi Gazette*, ...	Agra, ...	„ 28th	„ 31st
41	*Mutla-i-Núr*, ...	Cawnpore, ...	„ 23rd	„ 31st
42	*Hindi Márwár Gazette*, ...	Jodhpore, ...	„ 9th	„ 25th
43	*Ditto*, ...	Ditto, ...	„ 16th	„ 25th
44	*Jagat Samáchár*, ...	Meerut, ...	„ 28rd	„ 27th
45	*Hindi Benares Akhbár*, ...	Benares, ...	„ 26th	„ 28th
46	*Hindi Dhaulpore Gazette*,	Dhaulpore, ...	„ 11th	„ 28th
47	*Hindi Muir Gazette*, ...	Meerut, ...	„ 24th	„ 30th
48	*Hindi Marwar Gazette*, ...	Jodhpore, ...	„ 23rd	„ 31st

Allahabad,
The 7th February, 1871.

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